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LETTER DATED 5 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the violations of Iraqi national airspace committed by United States aircraft in order to carry out reconnaissance and cause provocation continued over the period 21-31 December 1995.

21 December 1995

1. Northern region: 11 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Tall Afar and Amadiyah.

2. Southern region: 29 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Jalibah, Artawi and Busayyah.

3. At 1350 hours on 21 December 1995, a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. It left in the direction of Kuwait at 1545 hours.

22 December 1995

1. Northern region: 22 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Zakho, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Irbil, Mosul and Tall Afar.

2. Southern region: 31 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Artawi, Chabaish, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amarah, Qurnah, Shanafiyah and Lasaf.

3. On 22 December 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region, as follows:

The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1325 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1345 hours.

The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1540 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1650 hours.

23 December 1995

1. Northern region: 4 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Mosul, Dohuk, Zakho and Amadiyah.

2. Southern region: 46 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Nasiriyah, Samawah, the area to the south of Diwaniyah, Qurnah, Shatrah and Busayyah.

3. On 23 December 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region, as follows:

The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1135 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1245 hours.

The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1425 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1545 hours.

24 December 1995

There was no hostile United States aerial activity.

25 December 1995

Southern region: 18 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Jalibah, Artawi and Busayyah.

26 December 1995

1. Southern region: 56 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Maymunah, Shatrah, Chabaish and Jalibah.

2. On 26 December 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region, as follows:

The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 0935 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1055 hours.

The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1242 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1350 hours.

27 December 1995

1. Northern region: 11 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Aqrah, Zakho and Amadiyah.

2. Southern region: 38 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Salman, Chabaish, Busayyah and Artawi.

28 December 1995

1. Northern region: 18 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Mosul, Dohuk, Zakho, Irbil and Amadiyah.

2. Southern region: 39 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Jalibah, Busayyah and Artawi.

3. At 0955 hours on 28 December 1995, a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. It left in the direction of Kuwait at 1100 hours.

29 December 1995

1. Northern region: 12 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Zakho, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil and Mosul.

2. Southern region: 44 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Shu'aybah, Samawah, Chabaish and Qal'at Salih.

3. On 29 December 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region, as follows:

The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1040 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1333 hours.

The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1505 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1539 hours.

30 December 1995

1. Northern region: 23 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Zakho, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Mosul, Tall Afar, Aqrah and Irbil.

2. Southern region: 39 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Artawi, Qurnah, Chabaish, Qal'at Salih, Nasiriyah, Shatrah, Samawah, Shanafiyah, Salman and Busayyah.

3. On 30 December 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region, as follows:

The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 0925 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1045 hours.

The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1227 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1337 hours.

31 December 1995

1. Northern region: 12 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Mosul, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Aqrah and Zakho.

2. Southern region: 40 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Artawi, Busayyah and Jalibah.

3. On 31 December 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region, as follows:

The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 0905 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1025 hours.

The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1300 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1325 hours.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative